

10/045,464

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sensor module for use in a modular automated ♦♦  
 diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples, comprising:  
~~an analysis mechanism chassis for mounting in the diagnostic analyzer,~~ ♦♦  
a modular sensor chamber for receiving at least one removable sensor ♦♦  
module, and ♦♦  
~~the analysis mechanism chassis including a fluid passage for conducting~~ ♦♦  
 fluids to the sensor chamber, and  
~~[[a]] in each removable sensor module mounted in,~~ ♦♦  
a sensor chamber containing at least one film sensor, ♦♦  
a sensor fluid passage for leading fluids from the fluid passage and ♦♦  
through the sensor chamber for performing analysis tests on the samples, ♦♦  
~~the sensor module containing~~ ♦♦  
~~one or more multiple use thick film sensors, and~~ ♦♦  
~~,~~ ♦♦  
and ♦♦  
a record memory for storing information relevant to the at least one film ♦♦  
sensor. ♦♦

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular ♦♦  
 automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 1,  
 further comprising:

a processing unit for reading and writing information pertaining to the sensor  
 module from and to the record memory.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular ♦♦  
 automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim ~~[[3]]~~  
2 wherein: ♦♦

each sensor module is provided with a fluid tight seal at least one end of the  
sensor fluid passage to form a fluid tight seal with one of the fluid passage of another ♦♦  
 sensor module ~~[[for with]]~~ and the fluid passage of the analysis mechanism chassis. ♦♦

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular ♦♦  
 automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 4  
 wherein the modular sensor chamber of the diagnostic analyzer further includes: ♦♦

an engagement element for selectively exerting pressure along one or more  
 sensor modul s in the sensor chamber to force the fluid seals of the one or more

1/14/04 - 11:48 AM

10/045,464

sensor modules into contact and into contact with the fluid passage of the analysis mechanism chassis so that the fluid passages of the one or more sensor modules form a single gas and liquid tight passage through the sensor chamber.

~~[[5]]~~ 6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 1, wherein the diagnostic analyzer further comprising includes:

a fluid entry module rotatably mounted to ~~[[the]]~~ an analysis mechanism chassis and enclosing the fluid passage for conducting fluids to the modular sensor chamber and having an entry port for the entry of fluids to the sensor chamber through the fluid passage and a wiping seal mounted in the fluid entry module and slidably enclosing ~~[[the]]~~ an aspiration tube in a region extending from the fluid entry port, wherein

the fluid entry module ~~[[being]]~~ is rotatably and slidably engaged with the analysis mechanism chassis to rotate to a plurality of fluid entry positions, whereby

a sliding motion of the wiping seal with respect to the entry port due to rotation of the fluid entry module between fluid entry positions removes a residue of aspirated fluids from exterior surfaces of the entry port.

~~[[6]]~~ 7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 2, wherein:

the information pertaining to the sensor module includes use life information, the use life information include one of more of (a) a maximum number of test uses of the sensor module, (b) a maximum test use life of the sensor module, (c) a current accumulated number of test uses of the sensor module, and (d) a current accumulated test use period of the sensor module.

~~[[7]]~~ 8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 2, wherein:

the information ~~pertaining~~ relevant to the sensor module includes one or more of (a) an identifier of the sensor module, (b) a lot number of the sensor module, (c) an identifier of the types of thick film sensors contained in the sensor module, and (d) calibration information pertaining to the thick film sensor contained in the sensor modul .

10/045,464

~~[[8]]~~ 9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 2, wherein:

first certain of the information pertaining relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is stored in the record memory before use of the sensor module, and

second certain of the information pertaining relevant to the sensor module and residing in the record memory is generated and stored in the record memory during use of the sensor module.

~~[[9]]~~ 10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sensor module for use in a modular automated diagnostic analyzer for performing analysis tests on fluid samples, comprising:

~~an analysis mechanism chassis for mounting in the diagnostic analyzer,~~

a modular sensor chamber for receiving at least one removable sensor module, and

~~the analysis mechanism chassis including a fluid passage for conducting fluids to the sensor chamber, and~~

a fluid entry module rotatably enclosing the fluid passage for conducting fluids to the modular sensor chamber and having an entry port for the entry of fluids to the modular sensor chamber through the fluid passage and a wiping seal mounted in the fluid entry module and slidably enclosing an aspiration tube in a region extending from the fluid entry port, wherein

the fluid entry module is rotatably and slidably engaged with the fluid passage analysis to rotate to a plurality of fluid entry positions, whereby

a sliding motion of the wiping seal with respect to the entry port due to rotation of the fluid entry module between fluid entry positions removes a residue of aspirated fluids from exterior surfaces of the entry port, and

in each removable sensor module mounted in,

a sensor chamber containing at least one film sensor,

a sensor fluid passage for leading fluids from the fluid passage and through the sensor chamber for performing analysis tests on the samples,

~~the sensor module containing~~

1/14/04 11:48 AM

10/045,464

~~one or more multiple use thin film sensors, and~~

~~and~~

a record memory for storing information relevant to the at least one film  
sensor.

~~[[10]]~~ 11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The modular automated diagnostic  
analyzer for performing analysis tests on samples of claim 1, wherein:

~~one or more of the one or more multiple use thicka film sensors is a reference.~~